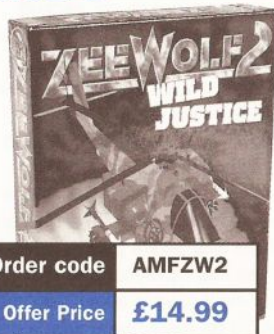


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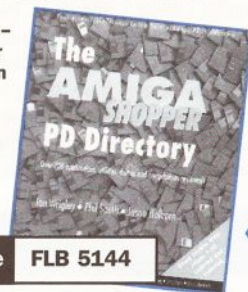
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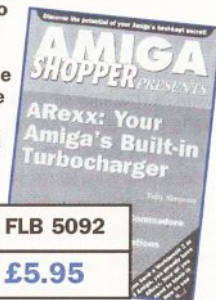
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AMIGA SHOPPER

Subscription Letter

Issue **71** January 1996



Dear Subscriber

Well, this is my final Subs letter and the end of an era. I had not wanted to be the last person to sit Amiga Shopper's Editor's chair, but have stayed to the end working late into the night with the likes of Andrea Ball who has done an amazing job keeping AS together. For both of us the duties on Amiga Shopper have been in addition to our normal jobs - she as the Production Editor on Amiga Format and myself as the CD-ROM Editor on PC Plus - and the work has meant many missed social events. But it has been worth it and the reward of reading many letters from supporters, who have appreciated Future's efforts to keep the market alive as long as possible, has been gratifying. Thanks also to Nick Aspell for always being ready to help out when everything was turning into a complete nightmare. It hasn't been easy seeing AS reduced in size, but we've always managed to offer a magazine that few with double the page count can provide. We've tried to ensure that the magazine has remained tightly focused and while we haven't ignored outside events, we've recognised that you don't really want to read about the latest Pentium developments or techno gadgets for the home. This month we could have done a retrospective of all the years of AS, but instead we decided to keep the mourning to a minimum as we had so much more interesting items to cover. Now though the market has shrunk further and we cannot compete with even our sister magazine, Amiga Format, which now has a CD-ROM every month. Although we are going you can rest assured that the Amiga stills has a true friend in her. So with much sadness, and a final thanks for your loyalty, all I can say is "See you in the pages of Amiga Format." Keep the faith.

David Taylor
Deputy Editor

See back page for special offers

Subscribers

On this final Subscribers' disk **David Taylor** introduces four of the best new Shareware products.

Over the years the Subscribers' disks have been packed with as many of the best programs we've been able to find. Many of you have every single one and often say how invaluable you have found them. Coverdisks have always been one of the best sources of software, both as a means of trying out commercial products and evaluating Shareware as well as getting some true gems, which you could never live without, for free. I've always been as much interested in the disks of a magazine as in the magazine itself - even before I began to compile them for magazines myself.

Since doing the AS disks I have always tried to include the right balance of utilities so that there was something for all tastes. Judging my your comments I have mostly achieved this and so I've done the same on this final disk. There's a program to expand your DTP capabilities, an emulator, a music program and a utility. Remember that in the future you will still be able to get quality software from Aminet and from the disks, or better, CD-ROM of Amiga Format.

ShapeShifter 3.6

I put a lot of thought into whether to include this new release of the Mac emulator or whether to break convention and include the PC's Amiga emulator UAE instead, as we know many of you already have PCs. In the

end, I decided that as ShapeShifter is such an important Amiga program I'd include it here and for the PC owners among you, you will be able to find versions of the latest release of UAE on the next available CD-ROM of PC Plus, probably the February 1997 issue (out at the beginning of the new year).

ShapeShifter allows you to emulate an Apple Mac on your Amiga and run Mac software. To use it you need an Apple Macintosh from which you can save out the ROMs as a file. The program then uses these ROMs to allow the Amiga to emulate the Mac. Why bother? Well, you can get the ROM files from a cheap second hand machine and then use it on a high end Amiga to outperform the original. This clone can actually run very fast because the Macs are based around the same processor as the Amiga so it doesn't have to interpret that.

When the ROMs are installed in the same directory as the program you can insert the Prepareemul command in your startup-sequence so that the Amiga's memory is set up for use with the Mac (this doesn't affect the Amiga using it when you

don't use ShapeShifter). You can then start the program and create a simulated hard drive or mount a proper one (if you are a registered user). When the emulator then boots you can install the operating system software and you have a fully operational Mac to install software on and use.

Version 3.6 is

Shareware and registering costs \$40 (about £30), but gives you access to hard drive partitions and SCSI devices. New in this release are support for sound cards, QuickDraw acceleration, improvements to the serial driver and more together with bug fixes.

MathScript

One thing that we've had a few letters about is the lack of proper support for maths programs, both in Amiga Shopper and on the Amiga in general. This program goes some way to rectifying this by allowing you to create mathematical equations using all the configurable maths signs. All you need to do is type them in, adjusting the figures to the correct power, etc and you can then save the resulting equation out as a formula or export it as an IFF, TIFF or EPS for importing into a DTP program. No Amiga DTP package has adequate high end mathematical support and this feature should allow you to circumvent the problem.

Note that this program is Shareware and uses MUI.

Musiker

This is a very unusual program. It takes a set of samples and instruments, chosen either by yourself or at random (and there are a set of samples included so you just need to set the list it can choose from) and creates a music module from them. It works almost completely at random, although some of the harmonics are taken from a predefined database. Not surprisingly some of the tunes it creates are terrible, but some are actually quite catchy. The author does hope that Aminet and BBSs don't become

flooded with poor tracker modules, because that isn't the point, but if you need a song in a hurry or need a piece of music to test something out then Musiker is a real boon. If you get a module you like, you can save it out for use in your work. The interface requires MUI.

Guidance

This utility is a replacement for the amigaguide command and allows you to load in powerpacked or xpk packed amigaguide files. All you need to do is set the default tool of the guide's icon to Guidance and it will load up any guide file. Obviously it means you need the amigaguide.library but it does expand the use of amigaguides.

That's it then. Another fine Amiga tradition draws to a close. The quality of some of the Shareware programs and their ease of use has convinced me that the demise of the Amiga is a loss beyond compare. To be resurrected fully is going to take a great deal of money and effort, but that is no reason for existing Amiga owners to leave their machines. If a computer does what you need then why change? The only reason for spending thousands of pounds on a new machine is if you need one. Rest assured that we shall still be around supporting you users through Amiga Format for as long as enough of you want us. This may be the end of Amiga Shopper, but it doesn't need to be the end of years of happy Amiga computing. There's still plenty install for all of us. I hope you've found something on our disks that have made it all worthwhile and if so, don't forget to drop the program's authors a line to thank them. Only through your support will more programs be released. Take care.

Installation

To install your Subscribers disk, you can boot it; but you'll have to have your main Coverdisks at hand because the Subscriber's disk needs a few files from them. If you have a hard drive, you can install everything from the three disks by loading Workbench and using the script on the first Coverdisk. Remember that after installing the disks, you may still need to install individual programs from their drawers.

- Shapshifter 3.6
- MathScript
- Musiker
- Guidance

